

Opponent Testimony on HB 322
Ohio House State and Local Government Committee
9/21/2021

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Ajit Chaudhari. I am a Professor at Ohio State University, a resident of Upper Arlington, and a parent of students in the Upper Arlington Schools. I strongly oppose HB 322.

As a parent, I oppose this bill because it devalues students by assuming they cannot handle complex and sometimes conflicting ideas. My children are 12 and almost 14, and they have been aware of their existence as members of a minority group for their entire lives. They deserve to learn from their teachers about the whole truth regarding history and society.

As a voter in Upper Arlington, I oppose this bill because it takes away local control from my elected Board of Education over our children's education. Since the founding of this country, one of our guiding principles for education has been local control unlike other countries such as France. It is inappropriate for the state to exert control in this way.

As a teacher and scholar, I oppose this bill because it denies and forbids the teaching of how racism can be systemic. If we ignore the possible consequences, intended or unintended, of policies that create or exacerbate racial inequalities, we are doomed to forever perpetuate them.

I urge you to vote NO on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any additional questions or provide input as needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ajit Chaudhari